United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Southwestern Region Forest Health Arizona Zone Office | 2500 S. Pine Knoll Drive Flagstaff, AZ 86001-6381 FAX (928) 556-2130 Voice (928) 556-2073

**File Code:** 3410 **Date:** February 14, 2002
**Route To:**

**Subject:** 2001 Forest Insect and Disease Aerial Detection Surveys, Coconino NF

**To:** Forest Supervisor, Coconino National Forest

The annual forest insect and disease aerial detection survey was conducted over the Coconino NF August 7-11, 2001, by Arizona Zone Forest Health observers. Following is a summary of the results of this survey.

Approximately 342 acres of ponderosa pine mortality, caused by Ips and western pine beetle, was detected this year. This represents an increase from both 1999 and 2000.

True fir mortality remains high this year, with notable pockets of mortality occurring on the west and north slopes of the San Francisco Peaks. Some of this mortality is visible from the Snowbowl Ski Resort. Approximately 4,264 acres of mortality were detected. This represents an increase from the mortality reported in 1999 and 2000. Accompanied by the 1,967 acres of Douglas-fir mortality on the same sites, the extent of the mortality for the two species is quite large and visible from numerous areas around the San Francisco Peaks.

Pinyon pine mortality was detected on 3,349 acres southwest of Apache Maid Lookout. Piñon Ips is causing this mortality.

Aspen defoliation, of low and high severity, was detected around the San Francisco Peaks and through its range on the Coconino NF. A combination of large aspen tortrix and marssonina leaf blight contributed to greatly thinned canopies. 2,098 acres of defoliation was mapped, an increase from 2000.

The extended drought in the southwest has contributed to an abundance of stressed trees across all sites. Such trees are visible from the air by their gray-green foliage and/or off-color brown foliage. Though the trees are not dead, it is apparent they are very moisture stressed. These sites are potential locations in which we could expect to see future insect and disease activity. This season 3,874 acres were mapped, with notable areas of interest including the Mogollon Rim in Blue Ridge, Munds Park, and west of Lake Mary.

Tree mortality from fire was evident around numerous small fires around the Forest. 1,551 acres were mapped. These areas will be monitored closely in the 2002 aerial surveys for the possibility of associated bark beetle activity.

Upon availability, maps depicting conditions detected will be sent to appropriate Forest-level staff and Ranger District personnel. Electronic format copies of the spatial data are being forwarded to Forest GIS staff and are to be made available to Forest SO and District personnel for any projects to which they may be relevant. Please advise District personnel via this letter of this availability.

If you have any questions regarding this survey, the information included here, or the availability of electronic maps or pest data, please feel free to contact Bobbe Fitzgibbon at (928) 556-2072 (email: bfitzgibbon@fs.fed.us) or Steve Dudley at (928) 556-2071 (email: sdudley@fs.fed.us).

/s/ John Anhold
JOHN ANHOLD
Arizona Zone Leader
Forest Health

cc:
llucero
dlparker01
dallenreid
sdudley
mmanthei
rstahn